

The District 3 Slate

January 2002

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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-- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor
Pam Slater

Dear friends:

Your son or daughter are headed to a party, but you're not worried, because it's an "alcohol-free" party. Well, there may still be reasons to worry.

More and more teens are trying Ecstasy, a so-called "club drug" with stimulant and hallucinogenic effects. It has no recognized medical use in the U.S.. In all, more teens have now tried Ecstasy than have experimented with cocaine, crack or heroin. According to Communities Against Substance Abuse, Ecstasy can be very dangerous, especially in high doses.

Yet at this point, state law only makes it unlawful to possess with the intent to sell or to manufacture the drug.

For these reasons, Supervisor Ron Roberts and I are seeking changes in state law that would make it illegal to use or being under the influence of this drug. Contact your state representatives to let them know of your support.

Pam Slater

Slater's 'Parkway Plan' gains momentum

A traffic management plan first proposed by Supervisor Pam Slater has moved into the "serious discussion" stage among elected leaders in North County.

Slater met this month with other North County elected officials to discuss the plan's possible effects on traffic.

During the meeting, Jack Boda, interim Executive Director for the local CALTRANS district, presented numbers showing how the plan affects traffic under different scenarios.

"The goal here is to reduce the congestion on the major free-ways and highways in North County," Slater said.

"From what CALTRANS officials said, it appears the Parkway Plan could substantially affect the amount of time drivers spend on the road during their commutes," she added.

The major roads affected include Palomar Airport Road, Cannon Road, Poinsettia Lane, Aviara Parkway and Faraday Avenue in Carlsbad; Leucadia Boulevard in Encinitas; Melrose Drive, Rancho Santa Fe Road, Twin Oaks Valley Road, W. San Marcos Boulevard and a future Questhaven Road in San Marcos; and Citracado Parkway in Escondido.

See **Parkway** on back page ...



Parkway Plan: Traffic moves west here along Leucadio Boulevard, east of Interstate 5. Leucadio Boulevard is one of the roads included as part of the Parkway Plan, a proposal by Supervisor Pam Slater that seeks to reduce traffic congestion and shorten commute times for drivers during peak hours.

Slater garners recognition

Sometimes, good news just comes right out of the blue.

Supervisor Pam Slater recently received two pieces of good news, and both were quite unexpected.



Slater, Bobertz and Gibson

Slater received an award from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project for her efforts to preserve and promote San Diego's lagoons and wetlands.

Dick Bobertz, executive director for the San Dieguito River Park, and Doug Gibson, executive director of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, presented Slater with the award, one of only five handed out statewide.

In the other piece of good news, the readers of San Diego Metropolitan Magazine voted Slater as "Best Politician" in the December 2001 annual "Best Of" issue. The magazine focuses on news and topics relating to downtown businesses, real estate and law.

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Tiny insect becoming Public Enemy #1 across the county

You may not realize it yet, but *Glycaspis brimblecombei* is quickly becoming Public Enemy No. 1. From secluded valleys in Escondido to majestic groves in La Jolla, *Glycaspis brimblecombei* is stalking us.

Actually, it is stalking eight popular species of eucalyptus, those towering trees engrained in the history and culture of San Diego County. Eucalyptus groves line canyons in Del Mar and Torrey Mesa and shade our back yards and commercial plazas.

But they are under siege from a parasite that hitchhiked its way here from Australia. This uninvited visitor is commonly known as the Red Gum Lerp Psyllid.

Psyllids are small insects that suck sap from leaves. In tests so far, insecticides have proven ineffective in stopping the psyllids.

The good news is several varieties of insects, spiders and birds find the non-native psyllids very tasty. A stingless wasp is being mass cultivated as a natural predator.

San Diego County, through the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner, is waging an aggressive campaign to identify infestations and alert homeowners of the dangers. Our region has

research sites in Rancho Santa Fe, Scripps Ranch and Mission Bay's Quivira Basin where state and county agriculture officials are testing natural predators to combat this attacker.

"The public often overlooks the contributions of these seldom-recognized scientists and researchers," said Supervisor Pam Slater. "They are our first and last line of defense in a world where germs, bacterium and invasive pests await to re-establish their dominance in the natural order."

Since eucalyptus is a hardy species, agriculture experts advise letting trees recover instead of being cut down.

"Don't be eager to wield that chainsaw - time and nature will return some trees to robust health," added Slater. "However, if the tree has died immediate removal might be wise."

Keep in mind that local cities and the county will only remove dead trees along the public rights-of-way. Trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

If you have a dead eucalyptus tree on your property, you should strongly consider taking it down. In its weakened state, the branches become a threat to passing vehicles, neighboring



Shady grove: *Eucalyptus* groves across the county, such as these trees along Torrey Pines Road, face a danger from the Red Gum Lerp Psyllid.

residences and people walking by.

That might be a liability issue you would rather avoid.

County helps home buyers

A new program sponsored by the County and 15 local cities will help families make the jump from renting to home ownership.

The San Diego Lease-Purchase program is designed to help as many as 350 local families buy their home by reducing the up-front costs needed to make a purchase.

"This will help make our community stronger," said Supervisor Pam Slater, an early champion of the program. Call 1-800-591-3111 for more information.

Parkway:

A key component of the Parkway Plan is the proposal to synchronize stop lights from city to city during peak hour drive times, something that has never been done before, Slater said.

Although individual cities already synchronize their traffic signals, the Parkway Plan represents the first time it would be tried across city and county boundaries.

"I've got to tip my cap to my fellow elected officials in North County," Slater said. "This plan could affect traffic in many coastal cities, but they're showing that they're willing to look at traffic from a regional perspective."

Other parts of the Parkway Plan include widening certain roads, putting in place reversible lanes, and using mini-electronic billboards to direct drivers taking short trips to the path of least resistance.

Slater also emphasized that the Parkway Plan idea could put in place relatively quickly, compared with the time it usually takes to build new highways.

Because the Parkway Plan relies on existing roads or roads that are already approved, it would not face the environmental hurdles that new road construction would face, Slater added.

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